

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

East Germany

DATE DISTR. 20 May 1954

SUBJECT

Shortage of Brown Coal Briquettes

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In mid-February 1954, [redacted] there was a shortage of 400,000 tons of brown coal briquettes in the GDR. Production difficulties were mainly the result of seasonal reasons. In order to make up for the non-fulfilment of production targets in January, the daily output should be at a rate of 120 percent of the original target figures. In order to investigate the difficulties existing in the field of brown coal mining, Fritz Selbmann, Minister of Heavy Industry, sent Walter Kohl, chief of the Main Administration of Brown Coal, into the Lausitz brown coal district. Kohl allegedly stated that the existing shortage of brown coal could not be eliminated by 28 February 1954.

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